

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-10

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INFO USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, UY

SUBJ: URUGUAYAN REACTION TO QUITO MFM

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY: CONCERN OVER THE DEEP DIVISION AMONG OAS MEMBERS AND ITS POSSIBLE IMPACT ON THE ORGANIZATION APPEAR TO HAVE DAMPENED THE INITIAL ENTHUSIASM WITH WHICH THE MEDIA GREETED "URUGUAY'S VICTORY" IN QUITO. SOME FONOFF SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED SIMILAR CONCERN, ADDING THAT THE RIGIDITY OF THE GOU POSITION MIGHT TEND TO ISOLATE URUGUAY. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS NOT INDICATION THAT THESE CONCERNS ARE SHARED AT THE TOP LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

2. THE IMMEDIATE REACTION OF THE URUGUAYAN MEDIA WAS ONE OF VICTORY BECAUSE OF URUGUAY'S HAVING BLOCKED THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA. THE ROLE OF THE URUGUAYAN DELEGATION IN QUITO WAS VARIOUSLY DESCRIBED AS "AS INFLUENTIAL AS IT WAS PRAISED," "A DECISIVE INTERVENTION," AND "A DIPLOMATIC TRIUMPH." FONMIN BLANCO WAS SINGLED OUT AS HAVING PLAYED A SINGULAR ROLE, PRESENTING A WELL-DOCUMENTED CASE AND DIRECTING THE SUCCESSFUL STRATEGY.

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3. EDITORIALS OF NOVEMBER 14 SHOW THAT THE INITIAL WAVE

OF ENTHUSIASM HAS BEEN TEMPERED BY REFLECTIO. THE COLORADO EL DIA AGAIN PRAISED BLANCOS PRESENTATION ON INTERVENTION WHICH "NO ONE REFUTED". HOWEVER, EL DIA ADDED THAT EVEN THOUGH "REASON AND PROOF COULD NOT BE REFUTED," THE OUT-COME WAS CLOUDED BY THE DEEPENING OF DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE OAS. EVEN THE ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE LA MANANA, WHILE CONTINUING ITS STRONG ATTACKS ON CASTRO AND CUBA, SAID, "IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE RESULTS OF THE AGITATED CONFERENCE MIGHT ADD TO THE DETERIORATION OF THE FRAGILE STRUCTURE OF THE OAS."

4. PREVIOUSLY, SEVERAL FONOFF SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED SIMILAR CONCERNS OVER THE QUITO MEETING, GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY CONSIDERED THE GOU POSITION TOO RIGID AND THAT IT WOULD TEND TO ISOLATE URUGUAY AND DAMAGE THE OAS. THERE IS NOT, HOWEVER, ANY INDICATION THAT THESE CONCERNS ARE SHARED AT THE TOP LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

5. GDS.
SIRACUSA

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